

Beckham.

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K4B39  
1885  
BIRDS



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## KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

JOHN R. PROCTER, Director.

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•••LIST OF THE•••

## BIRDS OF NELSON COUNTY.

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BY CHARLES WICKLIFFE BECKHAM.

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ELECTROTYPED FOR THE SURVEY BY JOHN D. WOODS, PUBLIC PRINTER AND BINDER, FRANKFORT, KY.



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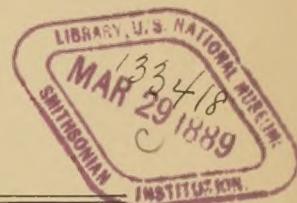
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# BIRDS OF NELSON COUNTY.

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BY CHARLES WICKLIFFE BECKHAM.

ELECTROTYPED FOR THE SURVEY BY JOHN D. WOODS, PUBLIC PRINTER AND BINDER, FRANKFORT, KY.





## INTRODUCTORY.

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THE following paper is based almost entirely upon my former list of the birds of this locality,\* written in January, 1883, and is prepared at the suggestion of Professor Procter, State Geologist, to accompany Mr Linny's report on the geology of Nelson county.

So short a time has elapsed since the former paper was written, and my opportunities for field work have been so limited, that I can only add four species to the fauna as heretofore given, namely: *Coturniculus henslowi*, *Ionornis martinica*, *Nettion carolinensis*, and *Fuligula collaris*. The first, third and fourth of these were all taken by myself, and the circumstances which induce me to include the latter are fully set forth in another place.

Most of the observations were made in the immediate vicinity of Bardstown, which is situated in N. Lat.  $37^{\circ}52'$ , W. Long.  $85^{\circ}18'$ , just on the western limit of the "Bluegrass Region," forty miles southeast of Louisville, and about one hundred southwest of Cincinnati.

The sylvan flora of this locality is quite diversified. The

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\* A list of the birds of Bardstown, Nelson county, Ky. By Charles Wickliffe Beckham.—Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History, Vol. VI., July, 1883, pp. 136-147.

most characteristic trees are beech, red and white oak, black walnut, butternut, poplar, (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), sycamore, black gum, dogwood, white elm, and hickory (*Carya alba, tomentosa et glabra*), and in some places there are dense and extensive glades of red cedar.

The country is gently undulating, and is mostly in a high state of cultivation. In summer the greater part of the small water courses become dry, and there is a corresponding scarcity of that desirable liquid. In the western part of the county there are still many large tracts of wild, uncultivated land, where such birds as the Pileated Woodpecker, the Ruffed Grouse, and the Wild Turkey are still to be found.

The list represents barely two-thirds of the birds that are, doubtless, to be found here at one season or another, but it is thoroughly trustworthy, as far as it goes, for no species has been admitted on any but the best of evidence. Out of the one hundred and seventy-one enumerated, the writer is personally responsible for all but eight of them. He here takes the opportunity to say that any information in regard to the birds of this and neighboring counties, that may be in the possession of any one into whose hands this paper may fall, will be gratefully received.

The nomenclature followed in this catalogue may strike some as being rather peculiar—which it doubtless is—but I am merely adopting the emendations and corrections that are being carried out under the authority of the American Ornithologists' Union, principally by Dr. Leonhard Stejneger, whose intimate acquaintance with the classical literature of ornithology ~~fit~~<sup>fits</sup> him particularly well for this difficult task. The reasons for all of these changes are clearly set forth in his "Analecta Ornithologica" articles, already published and to be published in "The Auk."

The average ornithologist loves diversity in the closet as well as in the field—when he can't find a new bird to describe, he

will go to work and give a new name to an old bird—and for most of them—

“—the new has charms which the old has not,  
And the stranger's face makes the friend's forgot.”

But let us hope that, with the “Stricklandian Code” as a beacon-light, our nomenclatural pilots will be enabled to steer the name-battered old bird-ship into a safe and *final* port before she is engulfed by the sea of synonyms that just now surges around her.



## BIRDS OF NELSON COUNTY.

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Species known to breed here are indicated by an asterisk (\*); those strongly inferred to do so, by a dagger (†).

Order **PASSERES** : Perching Birds.

Suborder **OSCINES** : Singing Birds.

Family **TURDIDÆ** : Thrushes.

Genus **Hylocichla**.

### 1. \**Hylocichla mustelina* (GMEL.). Wood Thrush.

A common summer resident; arrives about April 20th; departs about October 15th. In quality of tone perhaps the most gifted of our woodland vocalists. The song of no bird that I know comes anywhere near the full, liquid *timbre* of the note of the wood thrush. It is most often heard during the last hours of the long spring and early summer afternoons; and he also, when in pursuit of the "early worm," doubtless serenades the rising sun, but I have never heard him at that unseasonable hour. The song, however, lacks one important element of attractiveness—that is, quantity. The bird generally stops singing just as you prepare to give him your undivided attention. Their food is composed almost entirely of insects.

**2. *Hylocichla fuscescens* (STEPH.). Wilson's Thrush.**

Transient; uncommon in April and May. I have only seen this bird upon two occasions in the spring, and have never recognized it at all in the fall. It breeds in the northern part of the United States and in Canada.

**3. *Hylocichla aliciae* BAIRD. Grey-cheeked Thrush.**

Transient; common during the last week of April and the first week of May. Generally found in company with the next, which it much resembles, as I have taken specimens that gave me considerable trouble to distinguish from the other sort.

**4. *Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni* (CABAN.). Olive-backed Thrush.**

Transient. The most abundant of the thrushes during the migrations, except the robin. A few stragglers are seen as late as May 20th.

**5. *Hylocichla unalascæ pallasi* (CABAN.). Hermit Thrush.**

Transient; common; arrives last of March; leaves for the South about November 1st. It is highly probable that a few of these thrushes winter here in sheltered places, as I have found them common at the same latitude in Maryland, where the temperature was as low as 6° Fah., and they are known to winter north of here in Illinois.

**Genus *Merula*.****6. \**Merula migratoria* (LINN.). American Robin.**

A permanent resident. It is quite likely that the Robins we see during winter leave in the spring, and are succeeded by birds that have wintered farther South. On the 15th of February, 1881, immense numbers of these began to congregate in the dense cedar groves near Fredericksburg, in Washington county, nine miles from Bards-

town, and remained about there until March 8th. Thousands of them were captured by merely picking them off the branches of the cedars at night, and were sold as low as ten cents a dozen. The "roost" was raided in force, by a lot of men and boys, on the night of February 21st, and eight thousand birds were killed. [See files of *Nelson County Record* for February and March, 1881.

#### Genus **Mimus.**

##### 7. \**Mimus polyglottus* (LINN.). Mocking-bird.

A common summer resident. A few remain all the year, as I have observed them in every one of the twelve months. Ten years ago they were comparatively rare here, but now there are few gardens or yards where one or more pairs do not nest. They often sing quite late in the fall. I heard one in full song on the 8th of November.

#### Genus **Galeoscoptes.**

##### 8. \**Galeoscoptes carolinensis* (LINN.). Cat-bird.

A common summer resident. An inveterate bug-hunter, hence a good friend to the farmer, but he also enjoys strawberry and cherry time about as well as the rest of us, and on this account the small fruit grower regards him with an evil eye.

#### Genus **Harporhynchus.**

##### 9. \**Harporhynchus rufus* (LINN.). Brown Thrasher. "French Mocking-bird."

Common summer resident. Always one of the earliest of the spring arrivals. In 1881 I saw one on March 3rd. Found almost exclusively in thickets and dense shrubbery.

Genus **Sialia**.

10. \**Sialia sialis* (LINN.). Blue-bird.

A common permanent resident. The habits of this popular bird—"with the sky on his back"—are too well known to require comment here.

Family **SYLVIIDÆ**: Old World Warblers.Genus **Polioptila**.

11. \**Polioptila cærulea* (LINN.). Blue-gray Gnat-catcher.

An abundant summer resident. Arrives about April 1st. Fresh eggs are found July 2nd, when fully fledged young are flying about. The nest of this dainty little midget is a marvel of avian architecture, rivalling in the delicate beauty of its structure, and its ingenious illustration of what may perhaps be termed the principle of protective imitation, that of the humming-bird. On account of its outer covering of lichens, which give it the exact appearance of the limb to which it is attached, it is very difficult to find. The bird can not sing, but apparently has a good time trying, as they are quite noisy after their puny fashion.

Genus **Regulus**.

12. *Regulus calendula* (LINN.). Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Transient. Abundant in spring and fall. Arrives about April 1st; departs about October 16th. Most abundant in cedar and other evergreen trees and shrubbery. Their song, which is not often heard with us, is one of surprising depth and sweetness.

§ 13. *Regulus satrapa* LICHT. Golden-crowned Kinglet.

Transient, but a good many winter here. Inhabiting the

same places as the last, with which it often associates. The last of them leave for the North about April 25th.

Family **PARIDÆ**: Titmice, &c.

Genus **Lophophanes**.

14. \**Lophophanes bicolor* (LINN.). Tufted Titmouse, "Tomtit."

Also known as "Peter-peter," in imitation of one of its notes. An abundant permanent resident. Never taken its nest, and it is a standing mystery why the nest of so common a bird should be so difficult to find, as I have no trouble in finding those of other hole-breeding species.

Genus **Parus**.

15. \**Parus carolinensis* AUD. Carolina Chicadee.

An abundant permanent resident. Fond of the society of the preceding. The Chicadee raises quite a large family for such a small bird. I have several times counted seven young "chicks" in a nest, and other observers have recorded as high as ten. It must keep the industrious little birds always "a hustling" to provide for so many gaping mouths, and they doubtless make it lively, if not interesting, for the bugs and other creeping things.

Family **SITTIDÆ**: Nut-thatches.

Genus **Sitta**.

16. \**Sitta carolinensis* GMEL. White-bellied Nut-thatch.

A common permanent resident. This Nut-thatch is popularly "lumped" with that imaginary group, the "Sapsuckers;" i. e., the smaller woodpeckers, but I have yet to see the man who ever saw this useful little bird pursuing this nefarious practice. Their food is strictly insectivorous.

17. *Sitta canadensis* LINN. Red-bellied Nut-thatch.

An irregular fall and winter visitant, but whenever present, always quite common.

Family **CERTHIIDÆ**: Creepers.Genus **Certhia**.18. *Certhia familiaris rufa* (BARTR.). Brown Creeper.

A winter resident; sometimes quite common in spring. Arrives about October 15th; leaves about April 15th.

Family **TROGLODYTIDÆ**: Wrens.Genus **Thryothorus**.19. \**Thryothorus ludovicianus* (GMEL.). Carolina Wren.

An abundant permanent resident. The liveliest and noisiest bird for its size that I know. Appears to always have a quarrel on hand with somebody, and their ire reaches fever heat whenever the ubiquitous cat happens around. Their song is very strong and melodious, and is often heard in mid-winter.

Genus **Thryomanes**.20. \**Thryomanes bewicki* (AUD.). Bewick's Wren.

Not uncommon. Probably a permanent resident, as I have seen them in mid-winter. Found almost exclusively in the vicinity of dwellings.

Genus **Anorthura**.21. *Anorthura hiemalis* (VIEILL.). Winter Wren.

A rather common winter resident; arrives about October 15th.

Genus **Cistothorus**.22. *Cistothorus stellaris* (LICHT.). Short-billed Marsh Wren.

I have never seen but one specimen of this wren, a male, which was shot May 1st, 1882, from the top of a small blackberry vine in a rye field, while singing, if the queer stridulous noise he made can be called singing.

Family **MOTACILLIDÆ**: Wagtails and Titlarks.

Genus **Anthus**.

**23.** *Anthus ludovicianus* (Gmel.). American Titlark.

Transient. Captured as late as April 19th. Generally found in wet fields. In my former list it is stated that this bird was sometimes seen here in winter. This statement was made upon what I am now convinced, was insufficient evidence, although it doubtless does occur here at that season.

Family **MNIOTILTIDÆ**: American Warblers.

Genus **Mniotilta**.

**24.** \**Mniotilta varia* (Linn.). Black and white Creeper.

An abundant summer resident. Arrived, in 1882, as early as April 1st.

Genus **Helminthophila**.

**25.** †*Helminthophila pinus* (Linn.). Blue-winged Yellow Warbler.

Common from April 10th to May 25th; a few probably remain to breed. Unlike most of the arboreal *Mniotiltidae*, which generally do their so-called "warbling" while flitting about amongst the tree-tops in pursuit of insects, this dainty little beauty perches himself in the top of some small tree thirty to forty feet high, and at intervals of two or three minutes, pours forth his "screepy" solo; sometimes remaining fifteen or twenty minutes on the

same perch. On several occasions, although knowing that the birds were generally only twenty or thirty feet from me, I have had a great difficulty in finding them, so well do they conceal themselves in the foliage.

**26. *Helminthophila chrysoptera* (LINN.).** Golden-winged Warbler.

Rare; one specimen only. On May 11th, 1877, while sauntering through my favorite collecting ground, I saw four or five warblers skipping about the top of a small willow tree; getting two of them in line, I fired, and down came this bird and a Cape May Warbler—two species entirely new to me, and both very rare in this locality. Only those who are "in the secret" can appreciate my feelings upon that occasion.

**27. *Helminthophila ruficapilla* (WILSON).** Nashville Warbler.  
Transient; not uncommon.

**28. *Helminthophila celata* (SAY.).** Orange-crowned Warbler.  
Transient.

**29. *Helminthophila peregrina* (WILSON).** Tennessee Warbler.  
Transient; sometimes common in the fall.

Genus **Compsothylpis.**

**30. †*Compsothylpis americana* (LINN.).** Blue yellow-backed Warbler.

A common summer resident. Very abundant in spring.  
Exceedingly variable in plumage.

Genus **Perissoglossa.**

**31. *Perissoglossa tigrina* (GMEL.).** Cape May Warbler.  
Transient. Rare; two specimens only; both taken in May.

Genus *Dendrœca*.

32. \**Dendrœca aestiva* (GMEL.). Summer Yellow-bird.

A common summer resident; arrives about April 15th. This warbler, which is found all over the United States during the breeding season—"from Sandy Hook to the Golden Gate," is perhaps the most abundant representative of the genus here.

33. *Dendrœca cœrulescens* (LINN.). Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Transient. Common; arrives about May 5th; departs October 10th to 12th. Frequenting the lower limbs of trees and bushes in preference to the tree-tops.

34. *Dendrœca maculosa* (GMEL.). Black and yellow Warbler.

Transient; abundant. Arrives about May 7th; departs about October 10th.

35. *Dendrœca coronata* (LINN.). Yellow-rumped Warbler.

An abundant winter resident; arrives about October 10th and the last of them leave about May 8th. They winter in the cedar glades near Bardstown, where their lively "tsip" is often the only sound to be heard in those dismal solitudes.

36. \**Dendrœca cœrulea* (WILSON). Cœrulean Warbler.

A common summer resident; arrives about April 10th. Very abundant in the spring. I have several times killed two at one discharge of my gun.

37. *Dendrœca pennsylvanica* (LINN.). Chestnut-sided Warbler.

Transient. Common; particularly so in September. Arrives about May 7th; departs about October 10th.

38. *Dendrœca castanea* (WILSON). Bay-breasted Warbler.

Transient. Not common; arrives about May 10th.

**39. *Dendræca striata* (FORST.). Black-poll Warbler.**

Transient. Rather uncommon; arrives May 7th to 10th; departs about October 10th.

**40. *Dendræca blackburniæ* (GMEL.). Blackburniaen Warbler.**

Transient. Very common in September; but all of them are very plainly colored then as compared with the fiery hues of the vernal costume. Generally an early arrival. In 1882 I took one on April 3rd. They leave towards the last of September, but I have taken stragglers as late as October 13th.

**41. \**Dendræca dominica albilora* BAIRD. Sycamore Warbler.**

A common summer resident; arriving very early in April. Almost always found along streams in the sycamore trees (*Plantanus occidentalis*), amongst the branches of which they creep in their search for insects with more of the habits of a *Certhia* than those of a warbler; occasionally uttering their rather musical song, which is singularly like that of the Indigo Bird. Their nest I have never been able to find, although they undoubtedly breed here.

**42. †*Dendræca virens* (GMEL.). Black-throated Green Warbler.**

Transient. Very common. Arrives about April 18th; departs October 10th to 15th. I saw and identified one on July 14th, 1882, but, of course, didn't have a gun along, and the bird was not captured. All the specimens I have ever taken show great variation in the amount and intensity of the black on the breast.

**43. *Dendræca pinus* (WILSON). Pine-creeping Warbler.**

Transient. Common in April and September. It is quite likely that this bird breeds here.

44. *Dendræca palmarum* (GMEL.). Red-poll Warbler.

Transient. Quite common. A few undoubtedly winter here in sheltered places, as I have seen them in December and in the middle of January. Exclusively a terrestrial bird; generally associating in flocks with the smaller sparrows.

45. †*Dendræca discolor* (VIEILL.). Prairie Warbler.

Common in the spring. So far as my observations have extended, this warbler is transient here, but for reasons too lengthy to mention now, I feel quite sure that a few of them breed. An inhabitant of sassafras and cedar bushes, etc., that have grown up in old abandoned fields, where its curious song, which Dr. Coues likens to "a mouse complaining with the toothache," can always be heard in spring, during the intervals between his short flights after mosquitoes, flies, and other pestiferous flying things.

Genus *Siurus*.46. †*Siurus auricapillus* (LINN.). Golden-crowned Thrush.

Common in spring and fall. Nearly always found in woodland, where their loud monotonous chant "drowns" all other bird music.

47. *Siurus noveboracensis* (GMEL.). Small-billed Water Thrush

Transient. Rare, as I have never seen but two here—on May 17th, 1882.

48. \**Siurus Motacilla* (VIEILL.). Large-billed Water Thrush.

An abundant summer resident; arrives about April 1st. Frequenting small woodland watercourses, every one of which generally has a pair. They are first-class musicians, but do most of their singing during the first two

weeks after their arrival from the South. They are said to build their nests among the exposed roots of trees along the streams, but I have never been able to find one of them.

Genus *Oporornis*.

49. *Oporornis agilis* (WILSON). Connecticut Warbler.

Transient; rather rare. I have taken it only twice in the spring—May 12th and 13th, and once in the fall—October 11th.

50. \**Oporornis formosa* (WILSON). Kentucky Warbler.

A common summer resident; arrives about April 20th. This handsome ground warbler is another bird that indulges in the erroneous idea that he knows how to sing, if one may judge from the stolid persistency with which he grinds out his wearisome ditty, but it doubtless has the desired effect upon "Mrs. Kentucky," and he cares not for the plaudits of any one else.

Genus *Geothlypis*.

51. *Geothlypis philadelphia* (WILSON). Mourning Warbler.

Transient; rather rare. I have only taken three specimens, all in May. Its habits are very similar to the next, but its song impresses me as being much finer.

52. \**Geothlypis trichas* (LINN.). Maryland Yellowthroat.

An abundant summer resident. Arrives about April 20th; departs October 10th to 12th. An inhabitant of bushes and tangled thickets in the neighborhood of streams. Very suggestive of the wrens in its nervous, jerky disposition and quick movements. Sometimes, during the breeding season, the males indulge in a curious habit of flying up obliquely to the height of thirty or forty feet, and then descending, singing volubly all the time.

Genus *Icteria*.

53. *\*Icteria virens* (LINN.). Yellow-breasted Chat.

A common summer resident; arrives about April 25th. If birds were not known to be temperance folks, the Chat would be accused of "alcoholism," for this would be a very logical explanation of his absurd squawkings and clown-like gyrations in mid-air when the nuptial ecstasy is upon him. Like the preceding species they prefer the seclusion of thickets to all other places, and in such haunts they generally bring up their families; but I once knew a pair to build their nest in a wren box on a piazza. [See Bulletin Nuttall Ornithological Club, 1881, Vol. vi., p. 115].

Genus *Sylvania*.

54. *Sylvania mitrata* (GMEL.). Hooded Warbler.

Transient. One of our rarer, as well as most beautiful warblers. I have never taken but two specimens—April 19th and May 9th, 1877.

55. *Sylvania pusilla* (WILSON.). Black-capped Yellow Warbler.

Transient in May; not common. Generally in low trees in sparsely wooded thickets.

56. *Sylvania canadensis* (LINN.). Canadian Fly-catching Warbler.

Transient. Abundant in May; arrives May 10th to 15th. A bird of the forest. This and the Black-poll generally form the "rear guard" of the great sylvicolous army in their annual march towards the North, as it is always, with us, the last of the warblers to appear.

Genus **Setophaga**.

57. \**Setophaga ruticilla* (LINN.). American Redstart.

Summer resident. Very abundant during the migrations, but not very common in summer. Arrives April 23rd; departs about September 15th. Fresh eggs found May 27th. One of the handsomest representatives of our sylvan ornis, and unrivaled as an insect-catcher; it must be a very "cold day" indeed when the Redstart has to go without his dinner.

Family **VIREONIDÆ**: Vireos, or Greenlets.Genus **Vireosylvia**.

58. \**Vireosylvia olivacea* (LINN.). Red-eyed Vireo.

An abundant summer resident; arrives April 10th. They nest in the immediate vicinity of dwellings as well as in the forest.

59. *Vireosylvia philadelphica* CASSIN. Philadelphia Vireo.

Rare. One specimen only; shot May 19th, 1877.

60. \**Vireosylvia gilva* (VIEILL.). Warbling Vireo.

A common summer resident; arrives about the 1st of May. All the nests of this species I have ever seen were placed near the tops of trees instead of within a few feet of the ground—situations that the Red-eye and White-eye generally select. This dull-looking, inconspicuous little bird is one of our sweetest songsters, although his voice is not particularly strong, and the variety of his notes is limited.

Genus **Lanivireo**.

61. †*Lanivireo flavifrons* (VIEILL.). Yellow-throated Vires.

Rather common; arrives about April 20th. I have never

taken the nest of this greenlet, but I think that they breed here.

**62. *Lanivireo solitarius* (VIEILL.).** Blue-headed Vireo.

Transient. Not common. Arrives about April 20th; leaves about October 20th.

Genus **Vireo.**

**63. \**Vireo noveboracensis* (GMEL.).** White-eyed Vireo.

Abundant in spring, and rather common in summer. Arrives April 15th to 20th. Fresh eggs found May 16th. An inhabitant of the thicket, exclusively, and an exceedingly lively little bird, with a voice loud enough for one four or five times his size. Capt. Saville Reid, in his "Birds of the Bermudas" likens one of its characteristic calls to the suggestive phrase "ginger-beer-quick."

Family **AMPELIDÆ:** Waxwings.

Genus **Ampelis.**

**64.† *Ampelis cedrorum* (VIEILL.).** Cedar Waxwing. "Cherry Bird."

An irregular, but at times very abundant, permanent resident. Common in the cedar glades, whenever here. In Louisiana this bird is known as the "Ortolan." There are no less than five different birds that have had this name applied to them: 1st. The *true* Ortolan, *Emberiza hortulana* of Europe. 2d. The Sora-Rail, *Pozana carolina*. 3d. The Bobolink or Reed-bird, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. 4th. The Shore Lark, *Otocorvus alpestris* (see Lemoine's "Oiseaux du Canada," p. 225); and 5th, the bird under consideration. It is suggested that those who contend for a vernacular nomenclature, instead of a Latin and Greek one, put this in their pipes and smoke it.

Family **HIRUNDINIDÆ**: Swallows.Genus **Progne**.

65. \**Progne subis* (LINN.). Purple Martin.

A common summer resident; arrives about March 20th; sometimes as early as the 10th. A general favorite, breeding here, as elsewhere, in boxes put up for their accommodation, which sometimes occasion a triangular fight between this bird, the Blue-bird and the English Sparrow. In one three- or four-days battle, which I witnessed, the Blue-birds came off victorious.

Genus **Petrochelidon**.

66. \**Petrochelidon lunifrons* (SAY). Cliff Swallow.

A rather common summer resident. I have never seen their nests.

Genus **Chelidon**.

67. \**Chelidon erythrogaster* (BODD.). Barn Swallow.

An abundant summer resident; arrives about April 20th. These swallows do not appear to be nearly as common about here as they were ten or fifteen years ago. Boys destroy a great many of their nests, in the barns and other out-buildings, which has doubtless had a very appreciable effect upon their numbers.

Genus **Clivicola**.

68. †*Clivicola riparia* (LINN.). Bank Swallow. "Sand Martin."

A common summer resident.

Genus **Stelgidopteryx**.

69. \**Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (AUD.). Rough-winged Swallow.

A common summer resident. In the immediate neighborhood of Bardstown this is the most abundant of all the swallows. Their favorite nesting places about here are natural cavities in the limestone cliffs that surround the town.

Family **TANAGRIDÆ**: Tanagers.

Genus **Piranga**.

70. *Piranga erythromelas* (VIEILL.). Scarlet Tanager.

Transient. Abundant in May and September; not seen during the summer; arrives about May 1st. A bird of the forest; rarely seen about cultivated places.

71. \**Piranga rubra* (LINN.). Summer Red-bird.

A common summer resident; arrives April 20th to 25th. Fresh eggs are generally to be found about May 15th. Their nesting sites are confined exclusively to "the open," and almost always near a path or road. The terminal portion of a lower limb is selected, upon which the nest is "saddled;" the beech being their favorite tree. They frequently build in the immediate vicinity of dwellings. One was taken by me in May, 1882, in a small dogwood near a cistern, directly over a paved way, and within twenty or thirty feet of the house. About four-fifths of the nests contain three eggs—the remainder four. They have a rather pleasing song, which is heard only in May and June. In September they seem to become particularly abundant, and wander around in an uneasy, anxious sort of way, constantly uttering their querulous call-note.

Family **FRINGILLIDÆ**: Finches, Sparrows, &c.

Genus **Carpodacus**.

72. *Carpodacus purpureus* (GMEL.). Purple Finch.

A common transient. A few probably winter here. Prin-

cipal food the leaf-buds of trees; those of the "poplar" (*Liriodendron*), being apparently preferred to any other. I have heard them singing in October, but have never seen any birds in the red plumage at that time, all of the males being then in the sombre plumage of the female.

#### Genus *Loxia*.

73. *Loxia curvirostra americana* (WILSON). American Cross-bill.

A flock of six or eight of these birds appeared here on November 18th, 1882, in some pine trees, the first time I had ever observed them. They remained only a day or two, and none were seen until the 17th of March, following, when I shot eight out of a flock of about twenty, in the same place where they had previously been seen. Several flocks were observed about the same time near Bloomfield and Glenville, in this county, and excited considerable comment on account of their queer bills. The weather at the time was quite mild, so their appearance here was probably due to some other cause.

#### Genus *Spinus*.

74. \**Spinus tristis* (LINN.). American Gold-finch. "Yellow-bird."

An abundant permanent resident; more so in spring and fall than in summer and winter. Always in flocks, except for a short time while they are nesting.

75. *Spinus pinus* (WILSON). Pine Gold-finch.

I observed two small flocks of this bird here in November, 1882. Their habits appeared to be very similar to those of the last species.

Genus **Passer.**

76. *\*Passer domesticus* AUCT. English House Sparrow.

These obtrusive aliens made their appearance here about the year 1879, and are increasing at a rapid rate, and are to be found at several places in the country, as well as in town. They are generally appreciated by the people at their true value, and are regarded as an unmitigated nuisance. Pert and impudent here, as everywhere else, they act as if they owned the town. There must be something wrong about a theory—"survival of the fittest"—that lets this bird live—what are they fit for anyway?

Genus **Passerculus.**

77. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna* (WILSON). Savanna Sparrow.

Transient; abundant; arrives about March 20th. Most common in wet meadows.

Genus **Poæcetes.**

78. *\*Poæcetes gramineus* (GMEL.). Grass Finch.

A common summer resident; arrives about the middle of February, and leaves about November 20th. A first-rate songster; although eminently a "ground bird," whenever one of them experiences the musical impulse he flies to the top of the nearest high tree, and perching himself upon the topmost twig "turns himself loose."

Genus **Coturniculus.**

79. *\*Coturniculus savannarum* (GMEL.). Grasshopper Sparrow.

A common summer resident. Fresh eggs found May 20th. I have taken the bird here as late as October 26th. They build on the ground in open fields, and conceal their nests

with more dexterity than any other sparrow that I know of. Their note is about on a par with that of an able-bodied Kansas grasshopper.

**80. *Coturniculus henslowi* (AUD.). Henslow's Sparrow.**

On October 30th, 1884, while out quail shooting one of my dogs, a green pointer puppy whose field education was just beginning, "came down" in a wet clover field. Going up to the spot I flushed the bird, which turned out to be Henslow's Sparrow, and a new one to this locality. Of course the dog escaped the threshing he deserved for not distinguishing the difference between a "jack-sparrow" and a Bob White. The bird flew a few yards before alighting, and then scurried through the short tangled clover like a mouse, which it did so dexterously that I had great difficulty in getting a shot. The only other Kentucky record of this sparrow that I am aware of, is that given by Audubon (Birds of America, 1841, iii, p. 75), who took the type of the species near the Ohio river, opposite Cincinnati.

**Genus *Chondestes*.**

**81. *\*Chondestes grammacus* (SAY). Lark Finch.**

An abundant summer resident; arrives about April 22d. They hatch two broods; the young of the first brood are fully fledged and able to fly about June 25th. A most accomplished musician. In California, according to Mr. Ridgway, they are in great demand as cage birds. Wallace, in his "Geographical Distribution of Animals" (vol. 1, p. 24), mentions two species of North American birds, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*, and *Petrochelidon lunifrons*, that have greatly extended their range since the time of Alexander Wilson (the beginning of the century), and he

might also have included this bird. In Bonaparte's edition of Wilson's work (1834), the Mississippi river is given as the eastern limit of their range, but now they are very common hundreds of miles to the East of that stream, and have even been seen at Washington (Ridgway) and in Massachusetts (Brewer). They certainly have increased in numbers in this locality since I first began to "notice" birds.

Genus **Zonotrichia.**

82. *Zonotrichia leucophrys* (FORST.). White-crowned Sparrow.

Transient. Common in May. I have seen them in the fall as late as October 31st.

83. *Zonotrichia albicollis* (GMEL.). White-throated Sparrow.

Transient. Very common. A few winter here, as I have seen them on December 24th, and on February 1st. One of the last of our birds to leave for the North; stragglers sometimes seen as late as May 18th.

Genus **Spizella.**

84. *Spizella monticola* (GMEL.). Tree Sparrow.

A common winter resident; arrives about October 12th.

85. \**Spizella socialis* (WILSON). Chipping Sparrow. "House Sparrow."

An excessively abundant summer resident. It is probable that some of them winter here, as I have seen them here in cold weather, as late as December 28th, and as early as February 24th. Here, as in most places, the best known and most familiar of the sparrows.

86. \**Spizella pusilla* (WILSON). Field Sparrow.

An abundant summer resident; arrives about March 1st;

leaves about December 1st. One of the last of our birds to leave off singing in the summer, as their pleasing song is heard all through "blackberry-time."

Genus **Junco.**

87. *Junco hyemalis* (WILSON). Junco. "Snowbird."

An abundant winter resident, from October 25th to April 15th. Often caught around barns, when the snow is on the ground, by boys in "figure 4" traps.

Genus **Peucæa.**

88. †*Peucæa æstivalis bachmani* (AUD.). Bachman's Finch.

Rare. Only one specimen ; shot April 28th, 1877, from a low limb of a small oak while singing. The song was an exceedingly soft and sweet strain, and seemed to be somewhat ventriloquial, apparently issuing from several different places, as it was sometime before I could discover the bird.

Genus **Melospiza.**

89. \**Melospiza fasciata* (GMEL.). Song Sparrow.

In the previous list this bird is given as "an abundant resident." This is partially incorrect as they are quite scarce in Summer. I have never found the nest. One of the earliest of our birds to "tune up" for the great Spring song festival, and on this account quite a general favorite.

90. *Melospiza georgiana* (GMEL.). Swamp Sparrow.

Transient. Rather uncommon ; arrives April 1st to 10th.

91. *Melospiza lincolni* (AUD.). Lincoln's Finch.

Transient. Not uncommon in May. Like the last an inhabitant of wet and swampy places.

Genus **Passerella**.

92. *Passerella iliaca* (MERREM). Fox-colored Sparrow.

Abundant in March and November, and common during some winters. A bird of the thickets, in preference to all other places.

Genus **Pipilo**.

93. *+Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (LINN.). Towhee. "Joree."

A common permanent summer resident. Thickets and brush-piles are their favorite resorts.

Genus **Cardinalis**.

94. *\*Cardinalis cardinalis* (LINN.). Cardinal Grosbeak. "Red-bird."

An abundant permanent resident, and a favorite cage-bird. Three is the most usual number of eggs that their nests contain.

Genus **Habia**.

95. *Habia ludoviciana* (LINN.). Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

I have never met with this beautiful grosbeak but upon two occasions. On May 1, 1882, I shot one out of a flock of eight or ten individuals, and the following day, in the same place, I saw the same flock and four more were sacrificed to the cause of science. They were feeding apparently upon the seeds of the sycamore tree. I heard no note from them whatever.

Genus **Passerina**.

96. *\*Passerina cyanea* (LINN.). Indigo Bunting.

An abundant Summer resident from April 20th to October 18th. A voluble, but rather poor singer, compared to some of his Fringilline cousins, but his intentions are good and he doubtless does the best he "knows how."

At least one-third of the nests I have found contained eggs of the cow-bird.

Genus **Spiza.**

97. \**Spiza americana* (GMEL.). Black-throated Bunting.

A very common Summer resident, but they conceal their nests with so much skill that I have never been able to find one. During May they sing a great deal; their favorite perches when they are uttering their stridulous notes being the tops of the stakes of rail fences.

Family **ICTERIDÆ**: American Starlings.

Genus **Molothrus.**

98. \**Molothrus ater* (BODD.). Cow-bird.

A common Summer resident. The only parasitic bird we have in the Eastern part of North America. They congregate in large flocks in the Fall, and leave for the South about November 20th.

Genus **Agelaius.**

99. \**Agelaius phœniceus* (LINN.). Red-and-buff-shouldered Blackbird.

A common Summer resident. Arrives in large flocks early in March.

Genus **Sturnella.**

100. \**Sturnella magna* (LINN.). Meadow Lark. "Field Lark."

Resident all the year. Abundant in Spring and Fall. There is a current belief, doubtless well founded, that, at certain seasons, the flesh of this bird is infested with worms, perhaps some species of *cestoidea*, but I have never observed the phenomenon myself.

Genus *Icterus*.

101. *\*Icterus spurius* (LINN.). Orchard Oriole.

A common summer resident. Arrives about April 20th. Sings a great deal on the wing.

102. *\*Icterus galbula* (LINN.). Baltimore Oriole.

A common Summer resident. Arrives about the same time as the preceding. A great depredator upon grape arbors. Gov. J. Proctor Knott finds them a great nuisance in his large vineyard near Lebanon. When engaged in their robberies they are absolutely silent, and are perfectly aware, that, as far as they are concerned, grapes are forbidden fruit, for whenever a man with a gun comes into view, they are "off like a shot"—and it may be superfluous to add, *before* they are shot.

Genus *Scolecophagus*.

103. *Scolecophagus carolinus* (MÜLL.). Rusty Blackbird.

Transient. Common during the migration. Sometimes appearing as early as the middle of February, and occasionally seen as late as November 4th. The "rusty" part of his name will apply as well to his voice as to his coat.

Genus *Quiscalus*.

104. *\*Quiscalus purpureus æneus* RIDGWAY. Bronzed Grackle.

A summer resident; very abundant in early spring. This is the commonest and best known of the three blackbirds we have here. A noisy colony of them have for many years bred in some tall pine trees in a large yard in Bardstown, and one night in August, 1880, during an exceedingly violent storm many of them were killed, probably by flying, or being violently blown against obstacles of some sort.

Family **CORVIDÆ**: Crows and Jays.

Genus **Corvus**.

**105.** \**Corvus americanus* (AUD.). Crow.

An abundant permanent resident. Here, as everywhere else, a pariah amongst birds, but the brainiest of them all. He has no friends, and apparently doesn't want any, for he increases and multiplies in the face of the most unrelenting persecution. He knows the range of every gun in his bailiwick, and in him the honest farmer's unsightly "scare-crow" excites no emotions, save those of derision and contempt.

Genus **Cyanocitta**.

**106.** \**Cyanocitta cristata* (LINN.). Blue Jay.

A permanent resident; very abundant in the fall. Nests generally placed in tall trees near dwellings. A noisy, quarrelsome, and nest-robbing pirate. The popular belief that he is in league with the devil and visits his sulphurous majesty every Friday, to report to him and consult upon mundane affairs, is amply supported by his wicked disposition and general "cussedness."

Family **ALAUDIDÆ**: Larks.

Genus **Otocoris**.

**107.** *Otocoris alpestris praticola* HENSHAW. Prairie Lark.

A common winter resident; appearing in irregular flocks about the first week of November.

Suborder **CLAMATORES**: Songless Perchers.

Family **TYRANNIDÆ**.

Genus **Tyrannus**.

**108.** \**Tyrannus tyrannus* (LINN.). King Bird. "Bee Martin."

An abundant summer resident; arrives about April 20th.

Several years ago, in May, I saw one of these birds occupying an exposed perch on a pear tree in bloom, about which many bees were darting. Several times I observed that the bird caught the insects without leaving his perch, by quickly turning his head and "grabbing" them. My attention being thoroughly aroused, I noticed that many of them seemed to fly directly towards him; the majority appearing to "shy off" at a short distance and change their course, but very few that came within reach escaped him. The question naturally suggests itself: did the thrifty *Hymenopterae* mistake the fully displayed crimson crown (I could see that the crest was erected) for a flower? Once since I have observed the same phenomenon, but not as well as upon this occasion. Mr. C. C. Nutting, who has spent considerable time studying the birds of Costa Rica and Niagara in their native haunts, states that he has seen *Muscivora mexicana* perched upon a twig, and waving its curious and brilliant fan-shaped crest after the manner of a flower swayed by a gentle breeze, and thus attracting insects within reach. In fact the majority of the fly-catchers, a family that numerically reaches its greatest development in the Neotropical Region, all have some lively colored coronal decoration, which, perhaps, has been evolved for the special purpose above suggested. I understand that this subject has been discussed by Mr. H. K. Coale in a recent paper read before the Ridgway Ornithological Club, of Chicago, but I have not seen it, and am unaware whether or not he has touched upon this particular phase of the matter.

Genus **Myiarchus.**

109. \**Myiarchus crinitus* (LINN.) Great-crested Fly-catcher.

An abundant summer resident; more numerous than the

preceding. They arrive about April 20th when they immediately begin to make the wood, orchards and gardens ring with their loud call-notes. They all appear to put in their appearance on the same day, and do not straggle in from the South like most of the migratory birds. Fresh eggs are to be had about a month after their arrival. All of the few nests I have found of this species—they breed in hollows in trees—contained the inevitable cast-off snake skins. Whether or not they act upon the idea that “the hair of a dog is good for his bite,” which is merely a homely rendition of the homeopathic canon of “similibus similibus curantur,” and put the skins in to keep the snakes out, I leave for the determination of some of our ornithological quidnuncs.

#### Genus **Sayornis**.

##### **110. \**Sayornis phœbe* (LATH.). Pewee.**

A common summer resident, and one of our best known birds. On account of their confiding habit of building their nests in conspicuous and easily accessible situations, they are the most common victim of the nest-destroying-small-boy vandals, who on account of the vast amount of total depravity and original sin that is in them, break up their well made houses “just because,” as one of the little fiends said to me, “they’s so easy to punch with a stick.” The pewees build much earlier than any of our common birds. I have found fresh eggs on March 29th. A few undoubtedly winter here, as I have seen them in December, January and February.

#### Genus **Contopus**.

##### **111. \**Contopus virens* (LINN.). Wood Pewee.**

An abundant summer resident. I have seen them here as

late as October 10th. As its name indicates this fly-catcher is exclusively a woodland bird, and builds the handsomest nest of any eastern representative of its family, but it is a very difficult one to find.

Genus **Empidonax**.

112. *Empidonax flaviventris* BAIRD. Yellow-bellied Fly-catcher.

Transient. Rather uncommon.

113. *\*Empidonax acadicus* (VIEILL.). Acadian Fly-catcher.

A common summer resident; arrives about May 1st. Fresh eggs found May 20th. Their nests are quite strong, but are so slightly built that the eggs can be easily seen by anyone standing beneath them.

114. *Empidonax minimus* BAIRD. Least Fly-catcher.

Transient in April and May. Common. An inhabitant of orchards and open places, in preference to the woodland.

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Order **PICARIAE**: Picarian Birds.

Suborder **CYPSELIFORMES**.

Family **TROCHILIDÆ**: Humming Birds.

Genus **Trochilus**.

115. *\*Trochilus colubris* LINN. Ruby-throated Humming Bird.

A common summer resident; arrives about April 25th. On account of the differences of plumage between the male and female Ruby-throat, it is popularly believed that we have two species of humming birds, but out

of the four hundred kinds known to inhabit the two American continents, only one is found east of the Mississippi river. This particular little "winged gem" has a curious habit, when just caught alive in the hand, of "keeling over" on its back and feigning death, but they always neglect to close their eyes and so rarely deceive anyone. One spring, many years ago, dozens of them frequented an extensive honeysuckle vine, in a large tree within ten or twelve feet of the house, and at least twenty of them, at different times, flew into the open windows, and were captured, all of which invariably "played possum" in the way above indicated, to the great interest and amusement of the inmates of the house. They can be easily tamed and taught to feed upon sugared water, and make very interesting pets.

Family **CYPSELIDÆ**: Swifts.

Genus **Chætura**.

116. \**Chætura pelagica* (LINN.). Chimney Swift. "Chimney Swallow."

An abundant summer resident; arrives about April 10th. A general favorite, all of whose habits are too well known to bear repetition here.

Family **CAPRIMULGIDÆ**: Goat-suckers.

Genus **Caprimulgus**.

117. †*Caprimulgus vociferus* WILSON. Whip-poor-will.

An uncommon summer resident. I have never heard it in the vicinity of Bardstown.

Genus **Chordeiles**.

118. †*Chordeiles virginianus* (GMEL.). Night Hawk. "Bull Bat."

Summer resident. Abundant in August and September,

and excessively so during a warm "spell" which lasted during the first three days of October, 1879. Bull Bat shooting is a favorite sport here during the last hour of the afternoon in August and September, but their uncertain and devious flight taxes the skill of the most expert gunner.

Suborder **PICIFORMES**: Piciform Birds.

Family **PICIDÆ**: Woodpeckers.

Genus **Dryobates**.

119. \**Dryobates villosus* (LINN.). Hairy Woodpecker.  
Permanent resident, not very common, but more so in winter than at any other time. A rather shy bird.

120. \**Dryobates pubescens* (LINN.). Downy Woodpecker.  
A common permanent resident.

Genus **Sphyrapicus**.

121. \**Sphyrapicus varius* (LINN.). Yellow-bellied Wood-pecker.

Winter resident. Rather common in the Fall, when they are most often seen about orchards, etc., where they are supposed to carry on their nefarious practice of "sap-sucking." The name "sap-sucker," is popularly applied to this bird as well as the two last, but the others should certainly stand acquitted of the crime. In fact all of the woodpeckers are insectivorous and are of incalculable benefit to man.

Genus **Ceophlœus**.

122. \**Ceophlœus pileatus* (LINN.). Pileated Wood-pecker.  
"Wood-cock."

An uncommon permanent resident in heavily wooded portions of the county. Less than fifteen years ago I often

noticed them within a mile or two of town but now they seem to have entirely disappeared from this vicinity. Always, a wary bird and very difficult to approach except in Florida where I found them quite tame.

Genus **Centurus**.

123. \**Centurus carolinus* (LINN.). Red-bellied Wood-pecker.  
"Checker-back."

A common permanent resident. Also, accused by the farmers, without reason, however, of being a "sap-sucker."

Genus **Melanerpes**.

124. \**Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (LINN.). Red-headed Woodpecker.

A permanent resident. Very abundant at times, but during some years none are seen for several months. They are rollicking, noisy sort of birds, and sometimes in October the racket that two or three dozen of them will make in the woods is almost deafening. Like the rest of his family he is eminently an insect eater, but is also very fond of a nice ripe cherry, and during the season makes frequent excursions to the orchard, where he is often shot for his pains, along with the Cherry Birds, by the watchful boy on guard—if the latter isn't up the tree himself.

Genus **Colaptes**.

125. \**Colaptes auratus* (LINN.). Yellow-shafted Flicker.  
"Yellow hammer."

An abundant permanent resident. Stays much on the ground, feeding in company with robins. Very fond of the berries of the black gum. Here the Flicker is the principal "game" of juvenile sportsmen, and some people eat them, but they are not popular as an article of diet.

Suborder **CUCULIFORMES**: Cuculiform Birds.

Family **ALCEDINIDÆ**: Kingfishers.

Genus **Ceryle**.

126. *\*Ceryle alcyon* (LINN.).

Rather common. Not observed in winter, but a few are doubtless to be found here at that season.

Family **CUCULIDÆ**: Cuckoos.

Genus **Coccyzus**.

127. *\*Coccyzus americanus* (LINN.). Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

“Rain Crow.”

A common summer resident; arrives about May 1st; departs about October 12th. An inhabitant of the densest foliage of the tree-tops, where it is easy enough to hear him, but very difficult to see him.

128. *†Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (WILSON). Black-billed Cuckoo. “Rain Crow.”

A rather uncommon summer resident. Similar in habits to the last. As is very well known these two birds get the name of “Rain Crow” from the wide-spread popular belief that their mournful notes are only heard before a rain. Like most signs it signally fails in dry times.

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Order **RAPTORES**: Birds of Prey.

Suborder **STRIGES**: Nocturnal Birds of Prey.

Family **ALUCONIDÆ**: Barn Owls.

Genus **Aluco**.

129. *Aluco flammeus pratincolus* (BONAP.). American Barn Owl.

In the museum of the Louisville Polytechnic Society there is a mounted specimen of this owl, which was shot in Bullitt county, fifteen or twenty miles north of here.

Family **STRIGIDÆ**: Owls.

Genus **Asio**.

130. *Asio accipitrinus* (PALL.). Short-eared Owl.

Rare: one specimen only, flushed from a clump of briars, November 17, 1881, and shot by Mr. W. H. Rowan, of Bardstown.

Genus **Scops**.

131. *\*Scops asio* (LINN.). Little Screech Owl.

A common permanent resident. I have seen fully fledged young birds on the wing May 31st. For two or three years a pair bred in a locust tree on the edge of a carriage way, and within thirty feet of the door of a large house.

Genus **Bubo**.

132. *\*Bubo virginianus* (GMEL.). Great Horned Owl.

A rather common Summer resident. A gentleman near here caught six or eight within a week with steel traps placed on a conspicuous perch in his barn-yard where the big marauders were accustomed to get their suppers.

Genus **Nyctea**.

133. *Nyctea nivea* (LINN.). Snowy Owl.

A circum-polar bird that occasionally visits these climes during severe winters. I know but two records of its capture: Audubon mentions one being taken "near Bairdstown, Kentucky," and several years ago Mr. E. E. McKay, of this place, shot one sitting on a gate-post during a snow-storm.

Suborder **ACCIPITRES**: Diurnal Birds of Prey.

Family **FALCONIDÆ**: Hawks, Etc.

Genus **Falco**.

134. *\*Falco sparverius* (LINN.). Sparrow Hawk.

A common permanent resident. Very wary; understanding as well as a crow how to take care of their skins.

Genus **Accipiter**.

135. *Accipiter cooperi* (BONAP.). Cooper's Hawk.

Sometimes rather common.

136. *\*Accipiter fuscus* (GMEL.). Sharp-shinned Hawk.

A common permanent resident.

Genus **Buteo**.

137. *\*Buteo lineatus* (GMEL.). Red-shouldered Hawk.  
"Chicken Hawk."

Permanent resident; probably the most common hawk found here.

Genus **Halietus**.

138. *Halietus leucocephalus* (LINN.). Bald Eagle. "Gray Eagle."

A newspaper paragraph (Nelson County *Record*, June 27, 1881) mentions the fact of one of these birds having been seen for several days near Boston, in this county.

Family **PANDIONIDÆ**: Ospreys.

Genus **Pandion**.

139. *Pandion halietus carolinensis* (GMEL.). Fish Hawk.

Rare. Mr. Rowan Wickliffe, of Bardstown, shot one in April, 1882, which is the only record of its occurrence here that I am aware of.

Suborder **CATHARTIDES** : American Vultures.

Family **CATHARTIDÆ**.

Genus **Cathartes**.

**140.** *\*Cathartes aura* (LINN.). Turkey Buzzard.

A common permanent resident, most abundant in summer.

Genus **Catharista**.

**141.** *Catharista atrata* (WILSON). Black Vulture. Carrion Crow.

An uncommon summer resident.

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Order **COLUMBÆ** : Columbine Birds.

Suborder **PERISTERÆ**.

Family **COLUMBIDÆ** : Pigeons and Doves.

Genus **Ectopistes**.

**142.** *Ectopistes migratoria* (LINN.). Passenger Pigeon. Wild Pigeon.

Excessively common during some falls, but not nearly as abundant as formerly. There was an enormous flight of them here about fifteen years ago. The following extract from Alexander Wilson's account of this species in his "American Ornithology," published about the year 1810, will doubtless prove interesting: "Not far from Shelbyville, in the State of Kentucky, about five years ago, there was one of these breeding places, which stretched through the woods in nearly a north and south direction, and was several miles in breadth, and was said to be upwards of

forty milles in extent! In this tract almost every tree was furnished with nests, wherever the branches could accommodate them. The pigeons made their first appearance there about the 10th of April, and left it altogether, with their young, before the 25th of May. As soon as the young were fully grown, and before they left the nests, numerous parties of the inhabitants, from all parts of the adjacent country, came with wagons, axes, beds, cooking utensils, many of them accompanied by the greater part of their families, and encamped for several days at the immense nursery. Several of them informed me that the noise in the wood was so great as to terrify their horses, and that it was difficult for one person to hear another speak without bawling in his ear. The ground was strewed with broken limbs of trees, eggs, and squab pigeons, which had been precipitated from above, and on which herds of hogs were fattening. Hawks, buzzards, and eagles were sailing about in great numbers, and seizing the squabs from their nests at pleasure, while from twenty feet upwards to the tops of the trees the view through the woods presented a perpetual tumult of crowding and fluttering multitudes of pigeons, their wings roaring like thunder, mingled with the frequent crash of falling timber, for now the axe-men were at work cutting down those trees that seemed to be most crowded with nests, and continued to fell them in such a manner that in their descent they might bring down several others, by which means the falling of one large tree sometimes produced two hundred squabs, little inferior in size to the old ones, and almost one mass of fat. On some single trees upwards of one hundred nests were found. It was dangerous to walk under these flying and

fluttering millions, from the frequent falling of large branches, broken down by the weight of the multitudes above, and which, in their descent, often destroyed numbers of the birds themselves, while the clothes of those engaged in traversing the woods were completely covered with the excrements of the pigeons. These circumstances were related to me by many of the most respectable part of the community in that quarter, and were confirmed, in part, by what I myself witnessed. I passed for several miles through the same breeding place, where every tree was spotted with nests, the remains of those above described. In many cases I counted upwards of ninety nests on a single tree; but the pigeons had abandoned this for another, sixty or eighty miles off, towards Green river, where they were said at that time to be equally numerous. From the great numbers that were constantly passing overhead to or from that quarter, I had no doubt of the truth of this statement. The mast had been chiefly consumed in Kentucky, and the pigeons, every morning a little before sunrise, set out for the Indiana territory, the nearest part of which was about sixty miles distant. Many of these returned before ten o'clock, and the great body generally appeared on their return a little after noon." Shelbyville is about thirty-eight miles north of Bardstown. It is hardly necessary to state that no pigeon "roost" is known to exist in Kentucky at this day.

#### Genus **Zenaidura.**

##### **143. \**Zenaidura carolinensis* (LINN.) Mourning Dove.**

A common permanent resident. They congregate in large flocks in the corn-fields during the fall and winter.

Order **GALLINÆ**: Gallinaceous Birds.

Family **MELEAGRIDIDÆ**: Turkeys.

Genus **Meleagris**.

**144.** †*Meleagris gallopavo* LINN. Wild Turkey.

Said to still occur sparingly in the western part of the county.

Family **TETRAONIDÆ**: Grouse.

Genus **Bonasa**.

**145.** \**Bonasa umbellus* (LINN.). Ruffed Grouse. "Pheasant."

Permanent resident. Not uncommon in deep wooded ravines and other suitable places in the western part of the county.

Family **PERDICIDÆ**: Partridges and Quails.

Genus **Colinus**.

**146.** \**Colinus virginianus* (LINN.). Bob White. American Quail. "Partridge."

A common permanent resident, but with hawks, cold weather and sportsmen, has a hard time of it in "the struggle for existence." They sometimes breed very late. On October 15, 1884, I found a large bevy in a corn field so young that they were unable to fly. During the early part of the shooting season the birds spend most of their time in the woods; only taking to the stubble during cold weather.

## Order HERODIONES.

## Family ARDEIDÆ: Herons.

Genus **Ardea**.

**147.** *Ardea herodias* LINN. Great Blue Heron.

Transient. Rather uncommon, on account of the absence of suitable places for them.

Genus **Herodias**.

**148.** *Herodias egretta* (GMEL.). American Egret.

Mr. J. W. Fowler, of Louisville, informs me that he shot one of these herons in October 1881, near Fairfield, in this county.

Genus **Garzetta**.

**149.** *Garzetta candidissima* (GMEL.). Snowy Heron.

A hunter informs me that several years ago he shot a "white fly-up-the-creek" near here, which is probably referable to this species.

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Genus **Butorides**.

**150.** *\*Butorides virescens* (LINN.). Green Heron. "Fly-up-the-creek."

A common Summer resident. Arrives about April 20th. Fresh eggs obtained May 12th. Nests generally placed in cedar trees, ten to twenty feet from the ground near streams.

Genus **Nycticorax**.

151. *Nycticorax griseus nævius* (BODD.). Black-crowned Night Heron.

Transient in May; not very uncommon.

Genus **Botaurus**.

152. *Botaurus lentiginosus* (MONTAG.). American Bittern.

Transient; rather uncommon.

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Order **LIMICOLÆ**: Shore Birds.Family **CHARADRIIDÆ**: Plovers.Genus **Oxyechus**.

153. *\*Oxyechus vociferus* (LINN.). Killdeer.

A permanent resident. Common in the Spring, but rare in summer and Winter.

Family **SCOLOPACIDÆ**: Snipe, Etc.Genus **Philohela**.

154. *†Philohela minor* (GMEL.). Woodcock.

Transient, so far as I know, but a few probably breed here. Not very common.

Genus **Gallinago**.

155. *Gallinago wilsoni* (TEMM.). Wilson's Snipe. "English Snipe."

Transient. Abundant in March and the first part of April.

Genus **Rhyacophilus**.

156. *Rhyacophilus solitarius* (WILSON). Solitary Sandpiper.  
Transient. Quite common in Spring.

Genus **Actitis**.

157. *Actitis macularia* (LINN.). Spotted Sandpiper.  
Transient, so far as my observations have extended. Arrives April 5th to 10th, when it becomes rather common for several weeks.

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Order **ALECTORIDES**: Cranes, Rails, Etc.Family **RALLIDÆ**: Gallinules, Rails and Coots.Genus **Rallus**.

158. *Rallus virginianus* LINN. Virginia Rail.

Transient. Rare; but one specimen—May 10th, 1882, which was killed with a stone by a boy, who brought it to me.

Genus **Porzana**.

159. *Porzana carolina* (LINN.). Sora Rail.

Transient; rather common in October in fields overgrown with briars, where they are very difficult to flush. October 12th is the latest record I have of their occurrence here. Not seen at all in spring.

160. *Porzana noveboracensis* (Gmel.). Little Yellow Rail.

Transient; rare. The only time I have ever met with this rail was on October 1, 1880, when a male and female were shot in an old briary field.

Genus **Ionornis**.161. *Ionornis martinica* (LINN.). Purple Gallinule.

Fourteen or fifteen years ago, when the writer was a boy of ten or twelve years of age, a strange looking bird was caught on "the creek" by one of his juvenile companions in iniquity, and for several days we held it captive with a string tied around one of its legs, and finally, I believe, not knowing what to do with it we turned it loose. The appearance of the bird with its brilliant plumage, its queer feet with the long toes, &c., made such a lasting impression upon me, that years afterwards, when I first saw a Purple Gallinule in Florida, I immediately recognized it as the counterpart of our quondam pet in Kentucky. On account of what I am now satisfied was over caution, this bird was not included in my former list.

Genus **Fulica**.162. *Fulica americana* GMEL. American Coot.

Transient. Rather uncommon. In October, 1880, two were captured alive and brought to me. They were confined during the winter in a dry and well-lighted basement room, by themselves, and became very tame, always coming up when called by the person who fed them. Their food consisted of corn-bread crumbs and other miscellaneous table "scraps," upon which they thrrove finely. In April they were liberated in the yard with the poultry, and made no attempt at all to leave, but soon made themselves at home, and, by their strongly evinced disposition to assert their rights, enforced the respect of the numerous domestic birds with which they were brought into contact, who seemed at first inclined to regard them as intruders, who were to be vigorously put down. After

the first two or three days it was quite amusing to watch the other fowls sidle off when the Coots came up for their rations. The nearest water was a spring branch a hundred yards distant, which they regularly visited two or three times a day. They remained all summer, apparently perfectly satisfied with their humdrum domestic life, but in September they wandered off, probably impelled by the migratory instinct. An account of these two birds was published in *Forest and Stream* in July, 1881.

Family **GRUIDÆ**: Cranes.

Genus **Grus**.

163. *Grus americana* (LINN.). Whooping Crane.

Mr. E. E. McKay informs me that many years ago he observed this bird near Bloomfield in this county.

164. *Grus mexicana* (MULL.). Sandhill Crane.

Inserted on the authority of Mr. E. E. McKay, who has frequently seen it on the Beech Fork of Salt River in this county.

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Order **ANSERES**.

Family **ANATIDÆ**: Swans, Geese and Ducks.

Genus **Branta**.

165. *Branta canadensis* (LINN.). Canada Goose. "Wild Goose."

Rather common in the air; but very few are seen on *terra firma* in these parts.

Genus **Anas**.

166. *Anas boscas* LINN. Mallard.

Transient; common.

Genus **Querquedula**.

167. *Querquedula discors* (LINN.). Blue-winged Teal.

Transient; common. The last of the ducks to pass northward in the spring.

Genus **Nettion**.

168. *Nettion carolinensis* (GMEL.). Green-winged Teal.

Transient; common. By one of those slips that happen to all of us, this duck was omitted from the former list.

Genus **Aix**.

169. *\*Aix sponsa* (LINN.). Wood Duck. Summer Duck.

An uncommon summer resident.

Genus **Fuligula**.

170. *Fuligula collaris* (DONOV.). Ring-billed Blackhead.

The only time I have ever met with this duck was on February 16, 1883, when a solitary female was shot on a small pond in a woodland.

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Order **PYGOPODES** : Diving Birds.

Family **PODICIPEDIDÆ**: Grebes.Genus **Podilymbus**.

171. *Podilymbus podiceps* (LINN.). Thick-billed Grebe. "Dapper." "Helldiver."

Transient; common on the streams and ponds in early spring.

It will be at once observed that, as regards the Birds of Prey and Water Birds, the list is very incomplete. Not being sufficiently acquainted with the former to infallibly identify them at a distance, or expert enough, as a collector, to shoot them, I have to leave out many species that undoubtedly occur here; and on account of the almost total absence of marshes, sloughs and ponds, very few water birds ever halt here during the migrations. The Passerine portion of the list is very much better; the only additional species that can reasonably be expected to occur here being *Parus atricapillus*, *Troglodytes aedon*, *Telmatodytes palustris*, *Protonotaria citrea*, *Helmintherus vermivorus*, *Hirundo bicolor*, *Lanius ludovicianus*, *Plectrophenax nivalis*, *Guiraca cærulea*, and *Empidonax pusillus trailli*.

Audubon speaks of *Protonotaria citrea* as being common near Louisville, and there are many other birds he alludes to as being found in Kentucky, which on account of the local character of this list are not included.

The following tables of seasonal distribution of the different species will doubtless prove interesting:

#### Winter Residents.

*Birds that go north in Summer but spend the Winter here.*

1. *Regulus satrapa*.
2. *Certhia familiaris rufa*.
3. *Anorthura hiemalis*.
4. *Dendrœca coronata*.
5. *Dendrœca palmarum*.
6. *Carpodacus purpureus*.
7. *Zonotrichia albicollis*.
8. *Spizella monticola*.
9. *Junco hyemalis*.
10. *Passerella iliaca*.
11. *Otocorvus alpestris praticola*.
12. *Sphyrapicus varius*.

## Summer Residents.

*Birds that spend the Summer here but winter further south.*

1. *Hylocichla mustelina.*
2. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis.*
3. *Harporhynchus rufus.*
4. *Polioptila cærulea.*
5. *Mniotilla varia.*
6. *Helminthophila pinus.*
7. *Compsothylpis americana.*
8. *Dendrœca æstiva.*
9. *Dendrœca cærulea.*
10. *Dendrœca discolor.*
11. *Dendrœca dominica albilora.*
12. *Siurus auricapillus.*
13. *Siurus motacilla.*
14. *Oporornis formosa.*
15. *Geothylpis trichas.*
16. *Icteria virens.*
17. *Setophaga ruticilla.*
18. *Vireosylvia olivacea.*
19. *Vireosylvia gilva.*
20. *Lanivireo flavifrons.*
21. *Vireo noveboracensis.*
22. *Pronge subis.*
23. *Petrochelidon lunifrons.*
24. *Chelidon erythrogaster.*
25. *Clavicola riparia.*
26. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis.*
27. *Piranga rubra.*
28. *Pooecetes gramineus*
29. *Coturniculus passerinus.*
30. *Chondestes grammica.*
31. *Spizella socialis.*
32. *Spizella pusilla.*
33. *Peuæa æstivalis bachmani.*
34. *Passerina cyanea.*
35. *Spiza americana.*

- 36. *Molothrus ater.*
- 37. *Agelaius phœniceus.*
- 38. *Icterus spurius.*
- 39. *Icterus galbula.*
- 40. *Quiscalus purpureus* ~~eneus.~~
- 41. *Tyrannus tyrannus.*
- 42. *Myiarchus crinitus.*
- 43. *Sayornis phœbe.*
- 44. *Contopus virens.*
- 45. *Empidonax acadicus.*
- 46. *Trochilus colubris.*
- 47. *Chætura pelagica.*
- 48. *Caprimulgus vociferus.*
- 49. *Chordeiles virginianus.*
- 50. *Ceryle alcyon.*
- 51. *Coccyzus americanus.*
- 52. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus.*
- 53. *Catharista atrata.*
- 54. *Butorides virgata* ~~sens.~~
- 55. *Aix sponsa.*

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### Transients.

*Birds that are only found here during the Spring and Fall migrations.*

- 1. *Hylocichla fuscescens.*
- 2. *Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni.*
- 3. *Hylocichla aliciae.*
- 4. *Hylocichla unalascæ pallasi.*
- 5. *Regulus calendula.*
- 6. *Cistothorus stellaris.*
- 7. *Helminthophila ruficapilla.*
- 8. *Helminthophila celata.*
- 9. *Helminthophila peregrina.*
- 10. *Helminthophila chrysoptera.*
- 11. *Anthus ludovicianus.*
- 12. *Perissoglossa tigrina.*

13. *Dendrœca cærulescens.*
14. *Dendrœca maculosa.*
15. *Dendrœca pennsyivanica.*
16. *Dendrœca castanea.*
17. *Dendrœca striata.*
18. *Dendrœca blackburniæ.*
19. *Dendrœca virens.*
20. *Dendrœca pinus.*
21. *Siurus noveboracensis.*
22. *Oporonis agilis.*
23. *Geothylpis philadelphia.*
24. *Sylvania mitrata.*
25. *Sylvania pusilla.*
26. *Sylvania canadensis.*
27. *Vireosylvia philadelphica.*
28. *Lanivireo solitarius.*
29. *Piranga erythromelas.*
30. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna.*
31. *Coturniculus henslowi.*
32. *Zonotrichia leucophrys.*
33. *Melospiza georgiana.*
34. *Melospiza lincolni.*
35. *Habia ludoviciana.*
36. *Scolecophagus ferrugineus.*
37. *Empidonax flaviventris.*
38. *Empidonax minimus.*
39. *Ectopistes migratoria.*
40. *Ardea herodias.*
41. *Herodias egretta.*
42. *Garzetta candidissima.*
43. *Nyticorax griseus nævius.*
44. *Botaurus lentiginosus.*
45. *Phihela minor.*
46. *Gallinago wilsoni.*
47. *Rhyacophilus solitarius.*
48. *Tringoides macularius.*
49. *Rallus virginianus.*
50. *Porzana carolina.*
51. *Porzana noveboracensis.*

52. *Fulica americana.*
53. *Grus americana.*
54. *Grus mexicana.*
55. *Branta canadensis.*
56. *Anas boscas.*
57. *Querquedula discors.*
58. *Nettion carolinensis.*
59. *Fuligula collaris.*
60. *Podilymdus podiceps.*

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### Permanent Residents.

*Birds that are found here during the whole year:*

1. *Merula migratoria.*
2. *Mimus polyglottus.*
3. *Sialia sialis.*
4. *Lophophanes bicolor.*
5. *Parus carolinensis.*
6. *Sitta carolinensis.*
7. *Thryothorus ludovicianus.*
8. *Thryomanes bewicki.*
9. *Ampelis cedrorum.*
10. *Spinus tristis.*
11. *Passer domesticus.*
12. *Melospiza fasciata.*
13. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus.*
14. *Cardinalis cardinalis.*
15. *Sturnella magna.*
16. *Corvus americanus.* ;
17. *Cyanocitta cristata.*
18. *Dryobates pubescens.*
19. *Dryobates villosus.*
20. *Ceophleus pileatus.*
21. *Centurus carolinus.*
22. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus.*
23. *Colaptes auratus.*

24. *Scops asio.*
25. *Bubo virginianus.*
26. *Falco sparverius.*
27. *Accipiter cooperi.*
28. *Accipiter fuscus.*
29. *Buteo lineatus.*
30. *Cathartes aura.*
31. *Zenaidura carolinensis.*
32. *Meleagris gallopavo.*
33. *Bonasa umbellus.*
34. *Colinus virginianus.*
35. *Oxyechus vociferus.*

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*Irregular casual visitants.*

1. *Sitta canadensis.*
2. *Loxia curvirostra americana.*
3. *Spinus pinus.*
4. *Aluco flammeus pratincolus.*
5. *Nyctea nyctea.*
6. *Asio accipitrinus.*
7. *Haliaetus leucocephalus.*
8. *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis.*
9. *Ionornis martinica.*

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The following table gives the families represented here, with the number of species contained in each one, in the order of their numerical importance :

O

1. *Mniotillidæ*—34 species.
2. *Fringillidæ*—26 species.
3. *Turdidæ*—10 species.
4. *Icteridæ*—7 species.
5. *Tyrannidæ*—7 species.
6. *Picidæ*—7 species.
7. *Vireonidæ*—6 species.
8. *Falconidæ*—6 species.

9. Ardeidæ—5 species.
10. Anatidæ—6 species.
11. Hirundinidæ—5 species.
12. Strigidæ—5 species.
13. Rallidæ—5 species.
14. Troglodytidæ—4 species.
15. Scolopacidæ—4 species.
16. Sylviidæ—3 species.
17. Paridæ—2 species.
18. Sittidæ—2 species.
19. Tanagridæ—5 species.
20. Corvidæ—2 species.
21. Caprimulgidæ—2 species.
22. Cuculidæ—2 species.
23. Cathartidæ—2 species.
24. Columbidæ—2 species.
25. Tetraonidæ—2 species.
26. Gruidæ—2 species.
27. Certhiidæ—1 species.
28. Motacillidæ—1 species.
29. Ampelidæ—1 species.
30. Alaudidæ—1 species.
31. Trochilidæ—1 species.
32. Cypselidæ—1 species.
33. Alcedinidæ—1 species.
34. Meleagridæ—1 species.
35. Charadriiidæ—1 species.
36. Podicipedidæ—1 species.

MARCH 25, 1885.

## EF RATA.

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P. 4. 6th line from bottom for "fit," read "fits."

10. For Satrapa read satrapa.

17. " Motacilla read motacilla.

20. " Lanivires read Lanivireo.

37. *Dele star (\*) before Sphyrapicus.*

41. For Iencocephalus read leucocephalus.

54. No. 40 for "æneus" read æneus.

54. No. 41 for tyranuus read tyrannus.

54. No. 54 for virrsceus read viresceus.

57. For Mnistiltidae read Mniotiltidae.

*Corrections made*





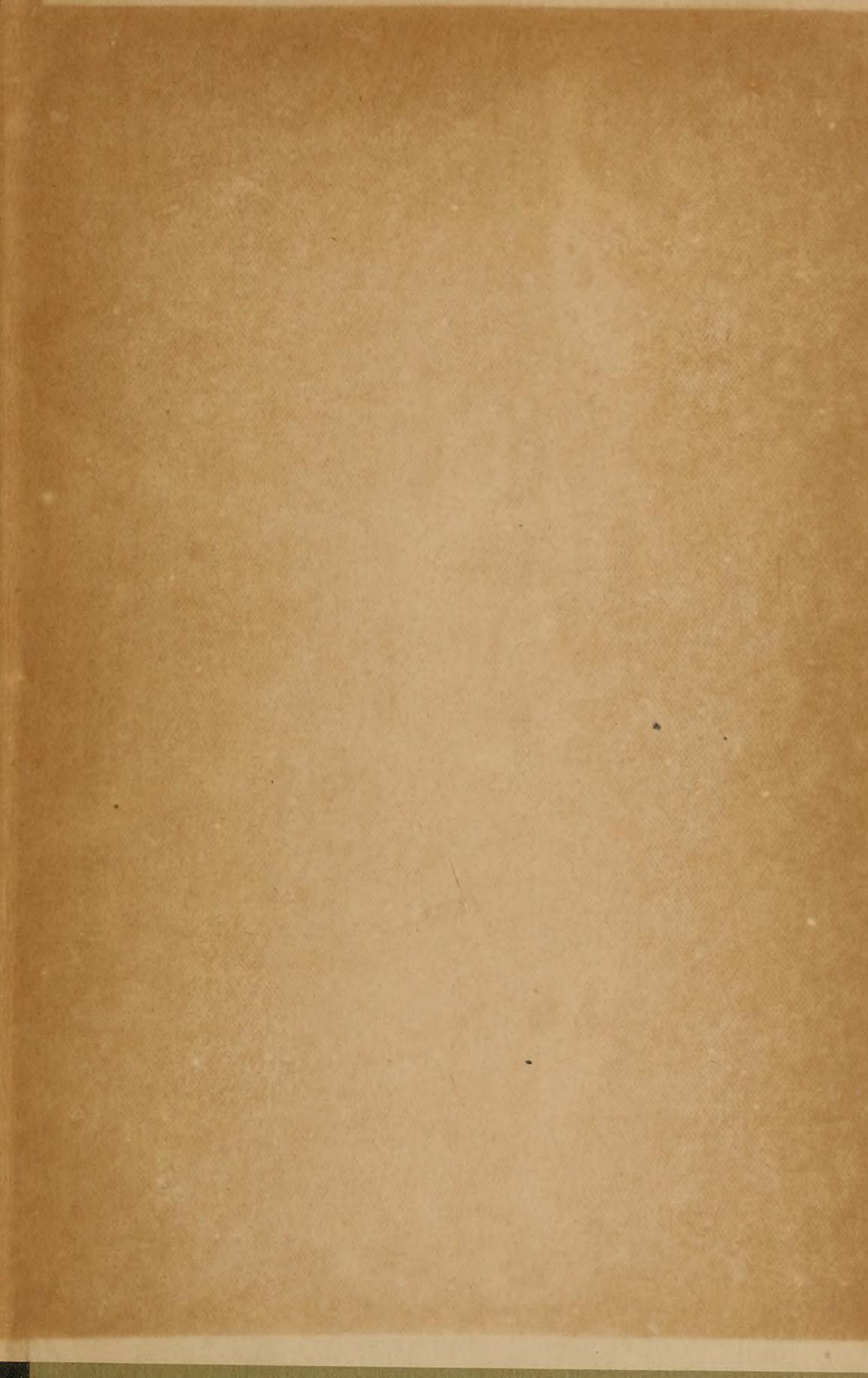












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